THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per Government instructions requirement for use of three languages for the sign-boards etc. is applicable to offices located in Region 'C only. Bombay does not come in this category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir, All the sign boards at National Airports Authority airport in Bombay are in accordance with the Government policy.

Inland Air Tax

2552. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have approached Government with the suggestion that it may be permitted to retain the inland air tax collected from each passenger ;

(b) what is the annual hicome fro air travel tax collected from the passengers ;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines have also decided to reduce the cancellation fee on air tickets to a nominal rate ;

(d) what was the earlier fee the passenger had to lose if the ticket was to be canceUeti;

(e) what are the other steps Indian AirlinU is considering to take to arrange the funds; and

(f) whether Government have agreed to the proposals for retaining the inland air travel tax collected from the passenger ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Annual Inland Air Travel Tax collection for the last three years is as under :—

Year	IATT collected (Rs. in crore)
1991-92	122.32
1992-93	160.50
1993-94	138.79

(c) The slab-wise cancellation charges have been removed by Indian Airlines with effect from 1-8-94 for passengers who cancel their booking upto one hour before the scheduled departure of the flight.

(d) The cancellation rules prior to August 1994were asunder:—

(i) 48 hours or more prior to departure of ! flights—Rs. 20.00

(ii) Less than 48 hours and upto 24 hours befored eparture of Flights—10% of Basic fare.

(iii) Less than 24 hours and upto one hour —25 % of Basic fare.

(iv) Within one hour of departure of flight —100% of Basic fare.

(e) The following are the main steps taken by Indian Airlines to meet the funds require ment :—

—Stepping up utilization of existing fleet to increase revenue.

—Reduction in expenditure without effecting efficiency/ productivity.

—Freezing recruitment.

—Route rationalization.

—Import of ATF under Special Import • licence.

—Indian Airlines has revised its domestic rupee fare ranging between 10% to 20% on all sctors effective 25-7-1994.

(f)No final decision has yet been taken by Government.

Irregularities in ITDC

2553. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM bepleasedto state:

(a) whether Governments attention hat been drawn to the newsitem which appeared I in the "Sunday Mail" of June 5-11, 1994 cap tioned "ITDC Managers insecure over Secu- I rity Agency" ;

(b) whether Government have ordered my investigation into the irregularities mentioned therein;

(c) if so, th^eWils thereof; and

(d) whether Government have also received any memorandum of Appeal dated the 18th October, 1994 from All India Parytan Jan Mazdoor Sabha reg : immediate repatriation of Executive Director (Vigilance);

(e) *if* so, what are the facts and recommendations of Central Bureau of Investigation/ Central Vigilance Commission in the matter and the steps taken by the Government against the Executive Director (Vigilance) of India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(f) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRT GHULAM NAW AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The nr'ter has been investigated. In the wake of bomb blasts of March, 1993 arid due to pur* *n* terrorist activities, the security arrangements in ITDC units were reviewed by a High Power Committee iH.P.C.) comprising of 7 senior officers of ITDC. The H.P.C. recommended that private security agency may be engaged for the reason that their manpower will be financially cheaper, impartial, easy to rotate and free from vested interests. This will also provide easy manoeuvrability in suddenly reducing or increasing the deployed manpower on short notice in view of Red Aleri" ete, !t was also decided to identify o le single private security agency capable of providing the ' beit qualitative manpower to all ITDC ncedi^ units throughout tli P<5B-quaJifica-ti.m tendors for selecting a suitable Private Security Agency were invited through press advertisements in national daiiie;. In all, 25 parties responded. The offers were scrutinized. Out of 25 parties, 19 agencies as had not submitted the requisite docunents (like Income Tax Clearance Certificate, certificate of their registration with various statutory bodies i.e. Employee's Provide i; fund, Employees' State Insurance, Local Shops and Establishment Registration and copies of their balance sheet for last 3 years etc.) were rejected leaving thereby only 6 parties which sabmiUed their tender;, with complete docu-Ttlfents. For physical verification of facts/ data provided by the agencies, most of the members of ,Jhe High Power Committee visited the offices>^bove referred 6 agencies. After the visit of the committe*^ihose agencies and on going through the relevant documents, the committee dropped 5 agencies on the grounds that they were not haying suffi-eienfinfrastructure or were not financially sound. The H.P.C. unanimously recommended that M/s Security and Intelligence Services is the best agency to do (lie job. The recoinrnen - datioi vv.is approved by the iif/DCB ;r Directors, Hence there was no irregularity in the award of contract.

While deciding about the engagement of manpower from private security agency, it was ensured that neither retrenchment of '-egular ITDC Security Staff will tak mi' their career prospects adversely aiTected fromanyangle.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Disputes pending against management of ITDC

2554. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'The Timis of India" of 9th October, 1094 captioned "PSU Officers sue management";

(b) what are the number of disputes pending . gainst the Management of India Tourism Oevelopment Corporation in variour Courts .dongwith brief details reg : violation of service iules alleged therein;

(c) what steps Government have take-streamliue the rules and regulations to reduce the incidence of litigation by ITDC Management against its own employees:

(d) whether any approval of the Board or the Ministry taken before filing or defending any case against the Management as per stipulations in the Memorandum and Articles o Association; and

(e) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) ; (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30th Jleptember, 94, 22 dispute cases filed by the officers were pending in various courts on service matters relating to termination, suspen. Bion, disciplinary action, promotion, ti etc. Besides, 235 cases of service matters tiled by workmen of different units were pending in various courts.